worthy. It is also open to him to get a loan from a Co-operative Society. We have created all these facilities. It is only propaganda work, education and explanation of the provisions by men like yourself that is needed to enable the depressed classes to take full advantage of the rules.

14. Difficulties in getting lands registered under the Puduval Rules with suggestions for increasing the output of paddy by throwing open swampy areas for cultivation.

Mr. C. A. A. Meera Rowther (Member, Peermade Taluk) said that, considering the mountainous nature of Peermade and the ravages of wild animals, Government had in bygone days registered lands on concessional rates, and that, during the last settlement also, many blocks of land which had been in the *bona fide* occupation of people were registered in their names free of *tharavila* and *thadivila*. But, in spite of those concessions, only very few lands had been taken up for occupation and cultivation, and the people had not thought it worth their while to settle down there. Such being the case, the high rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila* laid down in the Revised Puduval Rules scared away the people from taking up more lands. Further, whenever lands were applied for, they were surveyed at the cost of the applicants and then put up to auction. In many cases bidders were not forthcoming and the surveyed lands were left as *tharisu*, thereby causing loss to Government in the shape of *tharavila*, tax, etc., which they would have got if those lands had been assigned. To remove the above grievances and to accelerate the development of Peermade, the Member prayed for the following relief measures:—

(1) that the *tharavila* on *puduval* lands be fixed at varying rates from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10 per acre, and that, whenever the amount of *tharavila* on any land exceeded Rs. 100, it might be recovered in five yearly instalments;

(2) that the existing rates of *thadivila* be reduced to one-fourth of the same;

(3) that the ryots in Peermade be allowed to carry arms without license; and

(4) that they be allowed to graze their cattle without the payment of fees.

15. Suggestions for remedying the hardships of the people and the loss to Government through the prohibition of further registry of land within the cardamom reserve.

Mr. C. A. A. Meera Rowther (Member, Peermade Taluk) said that, owing to the want of adequate facilities for improving the cardamom gardens, and to the trouble from plant pest for about the last 3 or 4 years, the cardamom industry in the country was on its decline. Added to those difficulties, Government had recently prohibited the further registry of lands within the Cardamom Hills Reserve. That order prevented the agriculturists from taking up further lands and improving the condition of the cardamom industry. He, therefore, prayed that, in order to remove the difficulties that stood in the way of the development of that industry, lands in the Cardamom Hills Reserve might be assigned to cardamom ryots and all possible facilities afforded to them to develop that industry.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the assignment of lands under the Puduval Rules, I have already said that the question of reducing the rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila* would be re-examined. In regard to the assignment of cardamom lands, in the first place, there are very few applications for such lands now. Secondly, such applications as have been received are from non-Travancoreans. Moreover, if an area of 20 acres is granted for cardamom cultivation, a large extent of the surrounding area has to be allowed to lie waste. It is for the above reasons that Government have recently prohibited further assignment of lands within the Cardamom Hills Reserve. Of course, the existing cultivations may continue and orders have been issued to regularise them. It is the policy of the Government first to provide the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja with lands for cultivation, and then to grant [illegible] of outsiders for lands.

16. Difficulties in the way of Pulayas and other depressed classes in getting puduval lands registered in their names.

Mr. Kurumpan Daivathan (Member, nominated) said that the rules recently issued by Government for the assignment of 3 acres of land at concessional

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rates to members of the depressed classes were very liberal, but that there were difficulties in the practical working of those rules and in their securing lands owing chiefly to the unsympathetic attitude of the village officials. Lists showing the survey numbers and area of the lands available for registry in some taluks were published; but on an examination of them it was found that they were either hill slopes or rocky beds. Even the assignment of such useless lands was not being promptly attended to by the *pakuthi* staff.

The Member, therefore, prayed :—

(1) that river and canal *porambokes*, wherever available, be assigned to the members of his community for putting up houses;

(2) that adequate facilities be afforded to the Pulayas living in Anchanad in the Devicolam taluk in the matter of schools and house sites;

(3) that certain portions of Survey No. 244/1 in Ezhukone *pakuthi*, Kottarakara taluk, used by the Pulayas for growing paddy, be assigned to them;

(4) that 1,000 acres of swampy lands to be disafforested on the recommendation of the committees appointed in each of the taluks of Peermade, Devicolam, Pattanapuram and Kottarakara be exclusively set apart for assignment to his community; and

(5) that the ten cents of land in the Quilon Cantonment, applied for by them for putting up their *samajamandiram*, be assigned to them and that the timber required for the erection of the *mandiram* be also given free.

Dewan's reply.—You have evidently no complaint against the rules regarding the assignment of lands to the depressed classes. All your complaints are in regard to the working of the rules. The depressed classes have had substantial assignments of land last year and the orders are that the matter should receive the special attention of the revenue officers. Government will continue to devote attention in view to the registry of lands in the names of members of the depressed classes. The lists of available lands, to which you refer, hung up in Taluk offices, may not be complete. There may be a number of defects in them; but they can be rectified only gradually. One defect on the part of the members of the depressed classes which I have noticed in the course of my tours, is that they generally ask for lands which cannot be assigned and which have to be reserved in the interests of the public. I remember that, at Mavelikara, one of your leaders—I think it was Mr. Kandan Kumaran—came and complained to me that some of the applications presented by him for the registry of *puduval* lands were pending in the Taluk office. I enquired into the matter and found that all the applications related to portions of a tank bed which ...ed for irrigation. Such land can certainly not be assigned. They are re... for the use of the public. I would, therefore, request you to instruct your ... not to ask for lands the assignment of which is impossible.

The other matters you refer to are matters of detail. You say that river ...anal *porambokes* should be registered in the names of the members of depressed ...s. These are *prima facie* lands which have to be reserved in the interests of ...ublic, and, unless Government are satisfied that a particular *porambokе* or portion ...hereof is not required for the benefit of the public, it cannot be assigned.

You next refer to an application for ten cents of lands in the Quilon town for the use of your *sangham*. In regard to this, you may remind the Land Revenue ...issioner.

In regard to swampy lands, which are going to be disafforested, it is too soon anything now. First of all, we shall have to see what extent of such lands is ...le, who are the best claimants, etc. We shall have to see whether there are ...rs of the depressed classes living close by or occupying any of the swamps. If so, their claims will certainly be considered.

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